

CLASSIFICATION

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SUBJECT General Living Conditions

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 Living Conditions

25X1 1. [] the standard of living in Bulgaria is very bad. It has deteriorated a great deal after the currency reform of May 1952. A common laborer earns an average of 400 to 500 leva per month. The inadequacy of such a wage is best illustrated by current prices, which are as follows:

- a. Meat, 23-24 leva per kilo;
- b. White cheese, 17-18 leva per kilo;
- c. Balkan cheese, 25 leva per kilo;
- d. Butter, 20-25 leva per kilo;

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- e. Dark bread, 2.6 leva per kilo;
 - f. White bread, six leva per kilo;
 - g. Rough cloth, 100-120 leva per meter;
 - h. Good cloth, 300 leva per meter;
 - i. Man's shirt, 80-100 leva; and
 - j. Socks, 10-25 leva per pair.
3. Income from the professions and trades is no higher than that of the common laborers. However, men in official positions fare much better because of their Communist Party affiliations. They average a monthly income of approximately 1,000 leva, and in addition, most of their wives work and average salaries of between 500 and 600 leva per month.
3. As a result of these conditions, Bulgarians forego most of the pleasures they previously enjoyed. They rarely attend a cinema or show and are constantly in debt because they require salary advances to meet their monthly expenses. Under the present wage scale, the ordinary worker can hardly secure his basic everyday needs. There is an abundance of goods to be bought on the open market, but the lack of purchasing power, together with the termination of rationing, has put an end to black market activities.

Medical Information

- 4. The sale of drugs is completely under government control. Drugs are obtainable by prescription from any doctor at the State pharmacies. The more popular drugs are in shortage; most forms of sedatives and barbiturates are unobtainable and penicillin and streptomycin are almost unobtainable.
- 5. Medical treatment is available to everyone in all the hospitals at no cost to the patient, but patients must pay for any treatment received at a doctor's office. Most doctors work eight hours a day at the government-controlled hospitals and have private practices in their free time.

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